

Appl. No. : 09/854,067
Filed : May 10, 2001

any new matter to the specification. A substituted specification and a marked-up version thereof have been enclosed herewith. The term "glass substrate (1)" on page 6, line 8 of the marked-up version has been amended to read the term "glass substrate (2)". Support for the amendments can be found on page 5, line 5 of the substituted specification and Fig. 1, for example. The substituted specification does not include the addition of any new matter to the specification as filed. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Objection to Specification

The specification has been objected to because it appears to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

Applicants have submitted a substituted specification and a marked-up version thereof as enclosed herewith to the USPTO. Grammatical and idiomatic errors have been corrected, thereby obviating this objection. In addition, the reference numeral of the glass substrate at page 8, line 18 and page 9, line 1 of the previous specification have been corrected. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawami et al. (US 5,882,761).

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the recitation of "said preformed moisture-absorbing body comprising a desiccant and a resin component" set forth in Claim 2 as filed and Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 7 recites the same recitation of "said preformed moisture-absorbing body comprising a desiccant and a resin component" as Claim 1. On the other hand, Claim 6 not reciting the recitation, has been canceled without prejudice. The remaining claims are ultimately dependent on either one of Claims 1 and 7.

The Examiner asserts in the Office action that regarding claim 2, Kawami et al. disclose said preformed moisture absorbing body comprise a desiccant and a resin component. However, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Kawami et al. have absolutely no disclosure of the use of a resin component. The organic EL element 1 of Kawami consists of a glass substrate 2; a lamination body 6 comprising an ITO electrode 3, an organic luminescent material layer 4 and a cathode 5; a glass sealing case 7; a drying substance 8; and a sealing agent 9. There is absolutely no disclosure that any of there are a resin component. Accordingly, the Kawami reference fails

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to disclose every elements of the claimed invention, and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Moreover, the patentability of the present invention is evidenced by the unexpected advantages provided by the invention that are demonstrated in the EXAMPLE of the substituted specification as enclosed herewith.

The organic EL device fabricated in Example 1 has a preformed moisture-absorbing body comprising CaO as a desiccant and polyethylene as a resin component. In Figures 3 and 4, the organic EL device exhibited neither luminance aging nor growth of dark spots while retaining the initial emission zone intact and demonstrating the expecting desiccation characteristic.

The organic EL device of Comparative Example 1 does not have a preformed moisture-absorbing body itself. In Figures 5 and 6, the organic EL device exhibited dark substantially throughout, with a pale gray area in the center being the sole remaining light-emission zone.

The organic EL device of Comparative Example 2 has only BaO powders as a conventional desiccating means. In Figures 7 and 8, the organic EL exhibited definite dark spots before and after exposure, although the defects were not so prominent as in Comparative Example 1.

Therefore, the advantages of the present invention can not be obtained without the use of a preformed moisture-absorbing body comprising a desiccant and a resin component. As discussed above, Kawami et al. in no way teach the use of a preformed moisture-absorbing body comprising a desiccant and a resin component, thereby failing to obtain the above advantage.

In conclusion, the reference does not disclose or suggest the present invention. In view of Applicants' arguments, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-8 should be allowable.

New Claims 9-13

Claims 9-13 recite the distinct feature of "the preformed moisture-absorbing body comprising a desiccant and a resin component", and additionally recite characteristics of the resin component or the amount of the desiccant and the resin component. Thus, as with Claims 1-8, Claims 9-13 should be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might

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prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

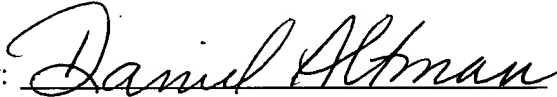
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 24, 2003

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2 and 6 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An organic EL device comprising:

1) a laminate consisting of an opposed pair of electrodes and an organic light-emitting layer sandwiched between the electrode,

2) a gas-tight housing accommodating said laminate and shielding off the external atmosphere, and

3) a ~~desiccating means~~preformed moisture-absorbing body disposed in isolation from said laminate within said gas-tight housing, ~~characterized in that a preformed moisture-absorbing body as said desiccating means is~~said preformed moisture-absorbing body being fixedly secured to at least one part of said gas-tight housing, and said preformed moisture-absorbing body comprising a desiccant and a resin component.

4. (Amended) An organic EL device according to Claim ~~2 or 3~~1 wherein the desiccant comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of alkaline earth metal oxides and sulfate salts.

5. (Amended) An organic EL device according to Claim ~~2 or 3~~1 wherein said resin component is at least one kind of gas-permeable resin.

Claims 9-13 have been added.